

Newsletter 8

Friday 5th November 2021

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Enhanced Response Area

You will all be aware that the Covid-19 infection rate is currently high in Cambridgeshire. From 1 November 2021 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough became an Enhanced Response Area (ERA). ERA status will mean more resources from government for additional measures to drive down recent rises in COVID-19 infection and to protect vulnerable people, the NHS and other vital services as the Winter months approach. Rising rates in older people, coupled with pressures building on local health and education services, led Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to ask the government to grant the whole area ERA status for at least five weeks from Monday 1 November. The aim is to bring down infection rates which are currently higher in most areas than seen in January's peak. Please be assured that we are continuing with the measures implemented in school earlier in October to minimise the risk of transmission and will continue to inform you of positive cases in school.

Mrs Howell

An Unexpected Visitor



Cygnus Class had a surprise visit on Wednesday when this young Blue Tit made a dramatic entrance. Having collided with the window the poor little bird knocked itself out. The children were very concerned and rushed to help the dazed bird, which was lying motionless on the window sill. Following some First Aid from Mrs Sawford the bird was quickly revived and flew off to join its avian friends.

Application for Reception Places in September 2022

Applications for Reception school places for September 2022 can now be made to the Cambridgeshire County Council Admissions Team. You can apply online at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions or the school office will provide you with a paper copy of the form. The closing date for the first round of applications is 15th January 2022.

We appreciate that selecting the right school for your child is not an easy decision to make. Please can I encourage prospective parents to join one of our 'parent tours' so that you can see the school at first hand and we can have the opportunity to tell you what makes Monkfield Park such a special place to learn. Following advice from the Local Authority we are avoiding large gatherings to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19. However, we are still offering very small tours for two parents at a time and request that visitors wear face masks when in the school building. Please contact the school office to book on to a tour.

A Healthy School

We are very proud to be a healthy eating school and our policies and school values support and promote this. As parents and carers you have been very supportive of our practices and policies which are making sure that our children know how to make healthy choices.

Sweets and chocolate bars are not allowed in school as we are all aware of the risks sugar poses to our children's teeth and health. To encourage children to make healthy choices we only allow fresh fruit or vegetables to be brought to school for a snack.

We have noticed that increasingly, children are bringing crisps and chocolate biscuits to school as part of their packed lunch. Crisps, chocolate, cake and sweets are discouraged as part of lunch boxes. A healthy lunch leaflet is available to offer guidance and tips for making lunch boxes as healthy and inviting as possible.

By working together in partnership together, we can do our very best to ensure that your child understands the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the positive impact it can have on their life. Thank you for your continued support.

Children in Need 2021

Friday 19th November will be the annual BBC Children in Need Day when we come together to have fun and raise money for children across the United Kingdom who face barriers which prevent them from thriving and flourishing.

As ever we will be holding a non-uniform day in school with the theme of 'Wacky Hat and Hair'. So start thinking about how you can make the wackiest hat or hair possible to raise money for this very worthwhile charity.



The Friends of Monkfield Park will be collecting the money for us on the day. A suggested donation is £1 per child and can be made online via JustGiving using the details below. In addition there will be bucket collections on the play-ground on the day if you would prefer to pay via cash. PLEASE NOTE— The

Minimum Donation allowed on JustGiving is £2.

Either follow this link to make a donation— www.justgiving.com/Monkfield-Park-Primary-School OR scan the QR Code to take you directly to the page.



Thank you for supporting this very worthy cause.

Speed Stacks

Speed Stacks is an amazing sport of fitness, agility, concentration and quickness which really challenges the children to focus and use their manual dexterity skills. This week Mr Yates organised a Speed Stacks inter house competition for children in years 3, 4 and 6. As you can see the children were keen to accept the challenge and the levels of concentration and energy in the hall were amazing. Everyone showed great team spirit but the ultimate Speed Stack trophy was awarded to Challenger.



The results were:

- 1st- Challenger
- 2nd- Endeavour
- 3rd - Atlantis
- 4th- Discovery
- 5th- Enterprise



Headteacher Roll of Honour

Each week this space will provide a celebration of children who may be especially noticed for demonstrating learning or behaviour that we feel should be recognised and commended. This week I would like to congratulate:

Finley in Phoenix Class: Finley has been determined to improve his spelling and handwriting. He has worked so hard over half-term to complete a large number of writing tasks and I am delighted to say that his handwriting has improved markedly.

Thomas in Aquila Class: Thomas has been working so hard this term, impressing his teachers with his eagerness to learn and his determination to concentrate and always do his best. Well done Thomas, you are becoming a wonderful example for everyone.

Defne in Blue Class: Defne has been showing us what a hardworking and able mathematician she is by demonstrating her understanding of some very tricky concepts. She has particularly impressed us with her growing confidence when handling number. Well done Defne.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you how Diwali is celebrated.

Ask your Year 1 child to identify and describe different materials around your home.

Ask your Year 2 child to describe what Tudor homes were like.

Ask your Year 3 child to name three different natural rock types.

Ask your Year 4 child to give you examples of negative ways in which humans change the environment.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain how to draw an accurate line graph.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain how propaganda posters were used in World War I.

Attendance

Please can we politely remind parents and carers that if attendance falls below the national expectation of 96%, we have a legal duty to contact you to express our concerns and to offer support. Quite often parents and carers may not realise the impact that a couple of days of absence may have on their child's attendance record.

Attendance can often be improved by ensuring that appointments are taken outside of school time, that breaks are taken in the designated school holiday times, and that children are punctual. The registers close at 9.10 am, consequently, if children arrive later than 9.10 am then it is classified as an unauthorised late and therefore an absence for that session.

FORTHCOMING DATES 2021 to 2022

The arrangements for all these events may be subject to change if there are changes in Government and Local Authority guidance. Until further notice, most of the large events will take place virtually via Zoom.

25th—29th October—HALF TERM

12th November—Flu vaccinations for Reception to Year 6

12th November at 9:15am—Blue Class assembly

w/c 15th November—Anti bullying week

18th November —Year 2 Production via Zoom

19th November—Children in Need Day

22nd to 26th November—Writing Week

6th December—Y1 visit to Shuttleworth Collection

15th December —Year 1 Nativity Play via Zoom

16th December—Christmas lunch

16th December —Year 4 Carol Concert via Zoom

17th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

20th December—3rd January 2022—CHRISTMAS BREAK

4th January—INSET Day (school closed for children)

5th January—Children return to school

Unattended Dogs

For the safety of both animals and children, please can we politely ask that dogs are not left unattended and tied to the school railings at drop-off and pick-up times? Thank you for your support in this matter.



School Uniform

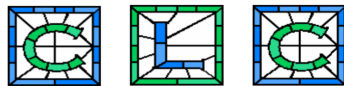
Please can we politely remind you that children are expected to wear the correct school uniform at all times.

- School sweatshirt or school cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Plain grey trousers or skirt—not black leggings. Skirt lengths should be at least knee length.
- Outdoor shoes that are suitable for safe, active play. Black shoes and not trainers should be worn. Trainers should only be worn on the timetabled PE day.



A number of children are wearing sweatshirts which do not conform to the guidelines. If you are having difficulty purchasing sweatshirts the office has a good selection of second hand uniform which can be purchased for a very reasonable sum.

Monkfield Park



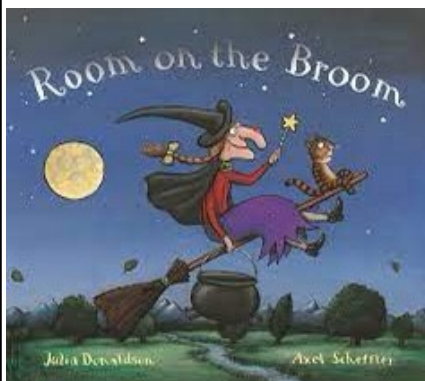
Care and Learning Centre



For general queries regarding the Care and Learning Centre, please contact the school office by e-mail on: clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk or by telephoning 01954 273377.

To speak with a member of the Care and Learning Centre staff please telephone 01954 273301

Room News



The children at the Care and Learning Centre have all enjoyed the story "Room on the Broom" and have been really good at joining in with the refrains. The children in Rabbit Room have also been learning some new book vocabulary such as 'title', 'author' and 'character'. Today, we have been collecting up objects to make up our own spells in the cauldron. As we put each item in, we thought about the initial sound of that object.

Parent Consultations

Over the next couple of weeks we will be offering online Parent Consultations via Zoom. This is an opportunity to talk to your child's Key Person about how they are getting on at Pre-School, raise any concerns you may have and plan together for their future learning and development.

If you would like a 10 minute online consultation, please sign up to one of the time slots available for your child's Key Person on the Care and Learning Centre notice board by the front door. We will send out a link for the meetings via email. If the times offered are not convenient for you, please let us know via the CLC Office email and we will do our best to accommodate you at an alternative time.

